



This newsletter is a publication of Sister Cities of Arlington, Texas

www.arlingtontx.gov/sistercity/index.html

NEWSLETTER

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GREETINGS

We look forward to seeing all of you again real soon. The 2010 annual meeting of our new **Sister Cities of Arlington, Texas** 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization will be on **Saturday, February 27**, at 1 p.m. We'll meet at the Bavarian Bakery and Café, located at 3000 SE Loop 820. (See their web site www.bavarianbakeryandcafe.com for directions and to see their lunch menu.)

Shelia and Klaus will update us on recent happenings and other plans for this year. We'll ask for everyone's help and creative ideas as we develop our plan for next year's 60th Anniversary celebration of our partnership with Bad Königshofen. We will also elect directors and officers for our organization for this year at the meeting.

Our treasurer will be collecting 2010 dues: \$30 for a family, \$20 for an individual or \$10 for a student. If you won't be able to make it to the meeting, just print out the membership form from our web site www.arlingtontx.gov/sistercity/index.html and mail it and your check to the address on the form.

Do bring your friends and neighbors to our meeting, too. Help our organization grow and spread the word about our partnership with our wonderful friends in Bad Königshofen.

Ein Frohes Neues Jahr 2010!

We want to wish all of our Friends of BK Ein Frohes Neues Jahr or Happy New Year!

From
Klaus
and
Patty



New Year's Day is the first day of the year. On the modern Gregorian calendar, it is celebrated on January 1, as it was also in ancient Rome (though other dates were also used in Rome). In all countries except for Israel using the Gregorian calendar as their main calendar, it is a public holiday, often celebrated with fireworks at the stroke of midnight as the New Year starts. January 1 on the Julian calendar corresponds to January 14 on the Gregorian calendar, and it is on that date that followers of some of the Eastern Orthodox churches celebrate the New Year. In Western Christianity New Year's Day, January 1, is the eighth day of Christmas.

A BIT OF SISTER CITIES HISTORY

By Martha Liehse

We all know how Arlington's partnership with Bad Königshofen began in 1951, and often the question arises as to whether this sister cities partnership is the oldest of all such affiliations or even the oldest between a U.S. and a German city. A little research has found us an answer to that question, and we now know that two other U.S. / German partnerships had similar beginnings to the Arlington / Bad Königshofen partnership.

The oldest known written sister cities agreement, according to the Sister Cities International office in Washington, D.C., was signed in 1931 between Toledo (OH) and Toledo, Spain, and it was called an "alliance of friendship" at the time. But which partnership is the oldest between a U.S. and a German city? The two earliest that Sister Cities International has found record of are the partnerships involving the U.S. cities Worthington (MN) and Pasadena (CA), beginning in 1947 and 1948 respectively.

Worthington (MN) A request for a pair of shoes by a pen pal in Finland in 1947 was not only granted by her pen pal in Worthington, but it also led residents in that small Minnesota agricultural community to realize that there must be a lot of people in need of basic clothing as well as food just after World War II. Worthington asked the U.S. government to find a German town for them similar in size to their own that had been hard hit by the war. **Crailsheim** (pop. 8600 at the time, and 70% destroyed) was selected, not just as a recipient of aid, but also for an exchange of practical and cultural information on a friendly, individual-to-individual basis. Clothing and other necessities were sent to Crailsheim and the exchange of correspondence and scrapbooks began right away between the two towns. And now, years later, this sister cities partnership is still strong and involves exchanges of musical groups, students and adults, and many personal friendships have formed. The towns commemorated their 50th

Anniversary in 1997 by together donating hospital supplies to a town in Belarus.

Pasadena (CA) After World War II, the American Friends Service Committee of Pasadena, wishing to help provide war relief to Europe, selected **Ludwigshafen am Rhein** as one of the neediest German cities, with only 20% of its residences still habitable. Two Pasadena residents visited Ludwigshafen and then presented numerous lectures in Pasadena to describe the plight of that German city. The "Pasadena Shares Committee" was founded in 1948 and for the next several years blankets, clothing, food and medicine were sent to Ludwigshafen. Personal friendships developed and visits back and forth between the cities began. Today the close relationship between Pasadena and Ludwigshafen am Rhein continues and the sister cities partnership involves student and cultural exchanges as well as reciprocal visits involving clubs and associations.

FASCHING

By Martha Liehse

There are festivities aplenty in most parts of Germany leading up to Ash Wednesday (Feb. 17 this year). The term we Americans are more familiar with for these events is Mardi Gras, but in Germany, depending on the region, it is called Fasching, Karneval or Fastnacht, and is also referred to as the Fifth Season! The Fasching season actually begins a lot earlier, in some areas on November 11 (at 11:11 a.m.) and in some regions after the end of the Christmas season on January 6. But the biggest of the festivities are held in the few days before Ash Wednesday and include masquerade balls and parades, with special food, lively music and designated "royalty" in most regions. Parade floats and marchers as well as speakers at the masquerade balls often ridicule regional and national politicians and other personalities, and also poke fun at events of the past year. The season ends at the stroke of midnight Tuesday night, when Lent begins.

MY TRIP TO GERMANY

by Megan English (16)

Over winter break, I had the privilege to go to Germany. My cousin Jake Smith and I are both high school sophomores. We had been planning and saving for the trip since summer. We left the day after Christmas and came back on January 2nd. My aunt and uncle, Mary and Dicky Baker, picked us up at the Frankfurt airport and took us to their home in Bamberg, Germany. They have lived in Bamberg for over 10 years, where they teach high school classes to the children of the U. S. servicemen and women.

After a couple of days of sightseeing in Bamberg, we arranged to meet the Becks in the town of Coburg. The Beck family had invited Mom and Dad to stay with them on their last visit, which was for Bürgermeister Behr's retirement. We met up with our hosts in the town of Coburg, and spent the whole day touring area cathedrals and castles. It was so cold there! But when it snowed, I forgot all about my frozen hands and feet. We ended up shopping in the town square. The cathedrals were huge and beautiful. They all had amazing backgrounds and stories. Mr. Beck was sent to Coburg at a young age for his schooling. So he was a wonderful guide and knew many shortcuts through the city. My favorite sight was outside of town; it's the Church of the Fourteen Saints. It was built because a shepherd had a vision about fourteen saints and the priest built the cathedral over the site where the man had the vision. (The original campfire can be seen through a glass bow under the altar.)

That night we followed the Becks to Bad Königshofen, where we met up with the Helblings and Dagi Lurz. It was nice to see everyone again. Thomas Helbling, the Mayor of Bad Königshofen, his wife Sabine and their twelve-year-old daughter Annabell stayed with us this past October for four days while visiting Arlington when they were honored at the German Pioneer Ball. Dagmar Lurz and Steffi Beck stayed with my family summer before last, and three years ago Dagi and her sister Petra Beck (Steffi's Mom) stayed with us for

the 2006 visit. We ate at this restaurant that served a variety of foods. I had spaghetti while Annabell and Jake ate hamburgers. Everyone exchanged gifts and talked. Since the adults wanted to stay awhile and talk more, Annabell, Jake, and I went outside for an epic snowball fight. It lasted forever, and after awhile we built a snowman. I had so much fun out there; it was a great time. Aunt Mary and Uncle Dicky were going to stay at a hotel, but the Becks would not hear of it – so they stayed with the Becks. Jake and I spent the night at Mayor Helbling's house and in the morning, they fixed us an amazing German breakfast. There were croissants, donuts, fruit salad, cereal, yogurt, and tons of jellies and jams for the croissants.



Jake Smith, Megan, Annabell, Sabine and Bürgermeister Helbling, Dagmar Lurz, and Steffi Beck in Würzburg restaurant.

Bright and early the next morning, we walked to the Bad Königshofen museum. It was very interesting. I learned about their situation during WWII. Bad Königshofen was closer than I imagined to the border that separated East and West Germany. Afterwards we drove to the town of Würzburg. We toured the Residence and saw the huge, priceless paintings and rooms. Then it was time to shop! I bought souvenirs for my friends, a beer hat for my brother, and a bunch of wonderful chocolate for my family. After the stores began to close, we had supper at a pancake house. These pancakes were like huge, flat, thick crepes and you could put whatever you wanted on them. Jake and I had pancakes with apples

and ice cream, very similar to the crepes. But some of the folks got weird stuff on their pancakes. My aunt had real food like ham and sour cream on hers.

Unfortunately, it eventually became time to leave our BK friends. We hugged and thanked our hosts and promised to come back and visit soon. We drove back to Bamberg and over the last few days we saw incredibly old, but well built buildings and learned a lot of the area history. Uncle Dicky said that in the 1600s Bamberg was the center for commerce and considered itself to be the "Center of the Universe." Then we experienced New Year's - German style, which means with lots of fireworks. It was a fitting end to an incredible trip, and one that I'll never forget.

(Editor's note: Megan is the daughter of Eric and Vicki English and is a student at Martin High School.)

SPOTLIGHT

It was on Easter Sunday in 1931 that the Maner family from Decatur, Alabama arrived in our small town of about 3,750 residents, ready to begin a new life. The Texas Pacific Railroad, the transportation corridor that stretched through the middle of Arlington and was bringing new jobs with it, was beginning to attract people like the Maners to the north Texas area.

In the early 1930s there were two elementary schools in Arlington and Doland Maner entered Northside as a fifth grader. The next year, as a sixth grader, he was scheduled to transfer to Southside Elementary, but during the summer of 1931 Southside Elementary burned to the ground. All sixth grade students were disbursed to several makeshift classrooms all over town. Doland ended up attending school in the Berachah Home for Wayward Girls, located near where Mitchell Street cuts through the UTA campus today.

Mr. Maner was employed in the local ornamental ironworks company, and naturally Doland spent a good deal of his after school hours following his dad around the plant,

learning a lot about iron and steel fabrication. Then came World War II, which changed the steel industry, and the local ironworks company changed to fit the post war demand for heavy equipment and steel construction. Doland eventually became one of the owners of the new Southern Industrial Steel Company, beginning his career in 1940.

In 1951, when newly elected Mayor Tom Vandergriff first learned about a small town in Bavaria that desperately needed aid for hundreds of East German refugees, he was quick in deciding to offer Arlington's helping hand to the German town. Pairing American cities to foreign cities after the War was not a new idea, but Mayor Vandergriff's choice to help Königshofen was not orchestrated by the Federal government, but was rather a personal one, person to person, city to city. The Mayor marshaled local businesses, churches, housewives and school children in collecting and sending much needed goods to the people in Germany. It was at this time that Doland first heard of Königshofen and he even helped load the first railcar with aid for its sendoff from the Arlington train depot on February 1, 1952.

Doland's association with Tom Vandergriff and his support of the city of Arlington didn't stop with the adoption of our sister city. He eventually ran for a place on the City Council and served as a Councilmember representing District 1 from 1967 to 1975. Doland retired from Southern Steel in 1983.

More than 50 years passed before Doland once again got involved with the sister cities partnership. He attended many of the events here last October, and met and became friends with Bürgermeister Thomas Helbling. He enjoyed the fellowship so much that he is planning on making the trip to Bad Königshofen in 2011 to celebrate the 60th Anniversary.

NEWS

The Arlington Historical Society just published a book called *Arlington in World War II*. It describes Arlington just before, during and after the war, and tells the individual stories of the Arlington men who lost their lives in the war effort. The author, Arlington resident Beverly Reynolds, has included an account of the 1951 beginning of the Arlington/Bad Königshofen partnership as it was related to the aftermath of the war. Accompanying the book is a DVD which includes many photos of Arlington in the 1940s. The book and DVD together are available for purchase at the Fielder House for \$20.

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